AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims found below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for determining a communication path in a communication network, comprising:

conducting a plurality of connections via a corresponding plurality of trunks between two neighboring network nodes and which reserve transmission capacities on the trunks; and

determining the trunk using an algorithm on which the connection is accommodated in accordance with an acceptance criterion wherein at least one additional connection is accommodated on one of the trunks, wherein

according to a bit rate threshold value, the algorithm begins from a fixed reference point when [[the]] a peak bit rate of the connection to be accepted is greater than the bit rate threshold value, or begins from a variable reference point when the peak bit rate of the connection to be accepted is less than the bit rate threshold value or equal to the bit rate threshold value, and the algorithm is applied to the plurality of trunks until a trunk having sufficient free transmission capacity is found and the connection is accepted or all trunks have been checked and the connection is rejected, and

the variable reference point is the trunk in the plurality of trunks which, in cyclic rotation, is arranged immediately following the trunk at which the algorithm started from a variable reference point has been terminated the last time previously.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixed reference point is the first trunk in the plurality of trunks.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[the]] a free residual transmission capacity ($C_r(T_i)$) of one of the trunks is obtained from a physical transmission capacity of the trunk, and the capacity is reduced by the sum of the peak bit rates of the currently active connections of the trunk.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acceptance criterion is designed in such a manner that a check is made whether [[the]] a freely available residual transmission capacity $C_r(T_i)$ is greater than or equal to the peak bit rate of the connection.